



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

The most important result of the Nansen Arctic exploration which has been so far given to the public is the discovery that the ocean has the great depth of nearly 2000 fathoms north of Franz Joseph's Land. This is the average of the oceanic depths, and the knowledge of its extension to the point nearest the pole yet attained, is a distinct gain. It dispels the idea that the pole can be reached overland from the side of Siberia, and shows that the nearest land approach, as suggested by Peary, is by way of Greenland. While this discovery does not destroy the hypothesis that land exists near the pole, it weakens it. The theory will not become extinct until the northern rendezvous of high arctic migratory birds has been discovered. The remarkable discovery of a territory free from glaciers and covered with vegetation in Grinnell Land, and along the north coast of Greenland, by the Greeley Expedition, opens up interesting possibilities, and must stimulate further search. American citizens have had an honorable share in these in the past, and it is to be hoped that they will continue to attack the problem until it is solved.

---

## RECENT LITERATURE.

**The Earth and Its Story** by A. Heilprin<sup>1</sup> fills a want long felt by teachers of elementary geology. It is a well illustrated little volume which presents "briefly, forcibly and possibly in a more popular form than in most books of a similar nature, the general facts of geology." It covers the field that it is intended to cover in a remarkably satisfactory manner. The facts of the science are given in sufficient detail to impress the student with the notion that the generalizations based upon them are built upon a secure foundation. Comparatively slight stress is laid upon these facts, the greater emphasis being placed on the general truths to which they lead. The book is interesting. It is well written; the language is simple and the thoughts are very clearly expressed. Only the most important conclusions of geology are mentioned, and where the views expressed are not accepted by all geologists, the author does not hesitate to mention the fact.

A prominent feature of the book are the illustrations. These are mainly reproductions of photographs, many of them entirely new. A

<sup>1</sup> Angelo Heilprin: *The Earth and Its Story, a First Book of Geology.* Boston, Silver, Burdett and Co., 1896. Pp. 267 and Plates 64.

few are blurred, but the majority are sufficiently full of detail to be of great aid to the reader. Two might well have been spared without injuring the value of the volume in the least—the map of Mammoth Cave (Plate 22, Fig. 2) on which the lettering is so small as to be read with difficulty, and the plate supposed to show the forms of crystals.

Criticism might well be urged against the table of geological “epochs and formations,” since the terms ‘primary’ and ‘secondary’ are used in conjunction with Paleozoic and Mesozoic, as though they were in as frequent use as the latter, and the term ‘tertiary’ is used as synonymous with Cainozoic. ‘Azoic’ is also used as the time term corresponding to the formation term Archean, in spite of the fact that the presence of fossils in the Archean rocks (Huronian and Laurentian) is not positively denied. Finally the term Algonkian has no place in the table. While, of course, it is permitted to the author to decline to accept this term as having a definite significance, it is at the same time unfortunate for his readers that they are not made familiar with it, if only as an aid toward the understanding of the handsome geological maps of the U. S. Geological Survey.

There are 19 chapters in the book. The first three treat of rocks, their formation and decay, the fourth of mountains, the next two of glaciers, the seventh of underground waters, the eighth of the relation between sea and land, the ninth of the interior of the earth, the tenth and eleventh of volcanoes, the twelfth of coral islands, the next three of fossils—their organization and their teachings, the sixteenth of land surfaces, and the last three of metals, minerals, building stones, etc.

No one need hesitate for an instant in recommending this little volume for use in our high schools and academies. It is by far the best thing of its kind that has yet appeared upon the market.—W. S. B.

**A Handbook of Rocks, for use without the Microscope** by Dr. J. F. Kemp<sup>2</sup> is a very welcome visitor to the desk of the teacher of geology. There has long been needed a little treatise on lithology which might be used as an introduction to the study of rocks and as a text-book for the use of those students in geology who have no intention of taking up the subject as a specialty. The volume before us fills this need completely. It is an excellent little book, as full of detail as is desirable for a book of its character and as accurate as is possible in one of its size. Each of the main families of rocks is well characterized

<sup>2</sup> J. F. Kemp: *A Handbook of Rocks, for use without the Microscope with a glossary of names of Rocks and other Lithological Terms.* Printed for the author. New York, 1896, pp. vii, 176. Price in lots of ten copies \$1.00 each.